Annual Report 2015–2016

Activities of the Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women

April 1, 2015, to March 31, 2016

About the Cover Art

A Drop of Dew, 2015
Pencil
by Catherine Rankin

Catherine Rankin of Summerside is the Vice-Chairperson of the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women and has been a member of the Council since 2011. Catherine has been renewing her love of nature and of drawing for the past two years and takes part in a supportive group of artists who meet weekly in Summerside.

Prince Edward Island
CANADA

Advisory Council on the Status of Women

PO Box 2000
Charlottetown
Prince Edward Island
Canada C1A 7N8

Tel: 902 368 4510
http://www.gov.pe.ca/acsw
info@peistatusofwomen.ca

January 2017

Hon. Paula Biggar
Minister Responsible for the Status of Women
PO Box 2000
Charlottetown PEI C1A 7N8

Dear Minister Biggar:

I am pleased to present you with the 2015–2016 Annual Report of the Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women.

The Annual Report contains our audited financial statements and a summary of the Advisory Council's activities, publications, projects, and collaborations with government and the community from April 1, 2015, to March 31, 2016.

Sincerely,

Mari Basiletti

Mari Basiletti, Chairperson

Some 2015–2016 Highlights

***Clockwise from top left**: Suna Houghton from the PEI Association for Newcomers to Canada, Michelle Jay, and Kelly Robinson at the September Council meeting; jingle-dress dancer Melissa Peter-Paul at the 2015 Montreal Massacre Memorial Service; Minister Responsible for the Status of Women Paula Biggar and Kelly at the Women's History Month memorial circle; Kelly and federal Green Party leader Elizabeth May at an event during the federal election campaign; Michelle, Kelly, and Jane Ledwell in red dresses for the ReDress campaign, Sisters in Spirit Vigil; Kelly and Min. Biggar in the Minister's office; hands pinning purple ribbons at the Purple Ribbon Pinning Bee; Jane, Starchild Eliza Knockwood, Michelle, Trina O'Brien-Leggott, and Elder Judy Clark at one of the Truth and Reconciliation Study Group circles.*

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Chairperson's Message

This has been a year of challenges, accomplishments, hope, and sorrow. All of us were deeply saddened when Chairperson Diane Kays died suddenly in March 2015. We are so grateful for the time she shared with us and for her considerable contributions to the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women and to our Island community.

I was honoured to be appointed Chairperson in July and complete a five-year tenure on Council in March 2016. We have members with great dedication, passion, and humour, and the Council is incredibly lucky to have committed, compassionate staff. I specifically want to thank them for providing comfort, caring, and support to Diane's sisters this year. I am proud to work with and to know you, Jane, Michelle, and Becky.

In June, we launched the 2015 Equality Report Card. The Report Card assessed the PEI government's progress towards women's equality goals during their last mandate, ending in May 2015. The Council awarded government an overall grade of "C," which shows that small steps toward equality continue to be taken.

In July, the Island was shaken by the murder of Traci Lynch. No life should end in violence, and yet, since 1989, ten Island women have been murdered. In each case, men they knew or loved were implicated, charged, or convicted in their deaths. Much remains to be done to make PEI safe for women and girls.

In 2013, Nash Campbell's murder reminded us all of how vulnerable children are, especially during times of family breakdown. Concerned members of the community came together in an ad hoc committee to discuss the recommendations from the provincial coroner's inquest. I was proud to be involved in this consultation.

In October, I had the honour of speaking during the Sisters in Spirit Vigil for missing and murdered Indigenous women in Canada. Council also co-hosted a lovely Women's History Month event with the PEI Interministerial Women's Secretariat. Participants shared stories of inspiring women who influenced them.

This year was unusual in that we had both a provincial and a federal election. During both elections, the Advisory Council helped to raise awareness of women's equality. Following the provincial election, we offered our sincere thanks to outgoing Minister Responsible Valerie Docherty for her public service and excellent collaboration.

We were pleased to welcome and are delighted to be working with Hon. Paula Biggar as the new Minister Responsible for the Status of Women. She brings a grounded, practical, and sincere approach to her work, and it has been a pleasure getting to know her.

Each fall, the Advisory Council coordinates the Purple Ribbon Campaign. The ribbon is an important symbol of addressing male violence against women and children that is rooted in power, control, and gender inequality. The theme "healthy relationships and right relations do not include violence," continued a focus on murdered and missing Indigenous women in Canada. The Montreal Massacre Memorial Service, hosted by the ACSW each year on or around December 6th, celebrated front-line service providers.

Finally, I am so proud of our staff who , together with the Aboriginal Women's Association, co-hosted an 8-week study group to examine the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's final summary report. The report details the history, fallout, and present-day consequences of the Indian residential school system in Canada, in which over 150,000 Indigenous youth were taken from their homes. Staff did an excellent job in creating an open space for difficult discussions and imaginings of a Canada that can be truly inclusive.

Mandate & Mission

The PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women (PEIACSW) is an arm's-length government-appointed Council.

Nine Council members are selected from among Island women who have demonstrated a commitment to women's equality and who represent regional, cultural, and ethnic diversity.

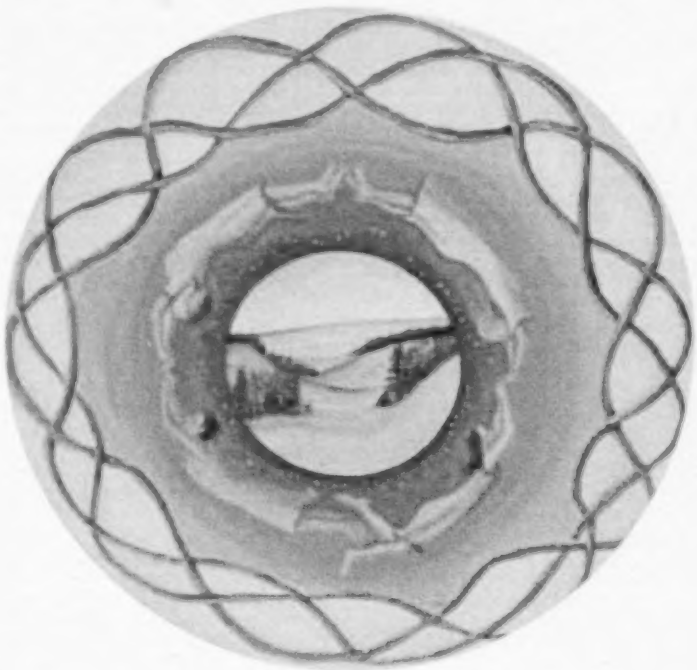
The Council believes that women's equality is the foundation for equality for all people. Women's inequality continues to influence discriminatory attitudes and actions that affect our society and culture, our politics and laws, and our economies.

Council believes that women's independent social and economic security is key to equality and to freedom from physical, emotional, and sexual violence.

The Advisory Council began in 1975 as an Order-in-Council. In 1988, it received full legislative standing with the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women Act. This Act continues to govern the Council's structure and mandate.

With a commitment to feminist principles and process, the PEIACSW:

- serves as an advisor to the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women regarding issues facing Island women and girls and their families;
- serves as a liaison between the community and the provincial government on matters related to equality;
- works for equality and supports women's full and active participation in social, legal, cultural, economic, and political spheres of life;
- promotes social justice for vulnerable populations, including senior women, Aboriginal women, low-income women, women of colour, Francophone women, women with disabilities, women who identify as LGBTQ, and others;
- conducts research and offers recommendations to government, collaborators and partners to promote equality;
- provides leadership that educates and stimulates public awareness about the status of women and their families;
- works in collaboration with other provincial/territorial Advisory Councils.



Artwork: "Seeds" by Council member Mari Basiletti.
This work was commissioned by and hangs in the waiting room of the PEI Rape and Sexual Assault Centre.

Council Meetings & Strategic Planning

The PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women is mandated to meet at least four times per year. At meetings, Council members share experiences, knowledge, and understanding of issues. They discuss and decide on policy priorities and recommendations to government. They meet with government officials or community organizations or both. They invite resource people who offer opportunities for learning and analysis.

Council's strategic planning processes are ongoing. The goal of Council planning is to ensure that Council's policy work is based on Council's priorities and that Council looks to the future on issues of concern to women. Ensuring ongoing follow-up on issues is part of Council planning. Council sets its objectives in an interest-based, collaborative, and consultative process, with expert facilitation whenever this is possible.

Advisory Council Meetings & Highlights, 2015–2016:

- **140th meeting: May 13, Charlottetown, PEI**
  Equality Report Card Workshop
  Council remembered Diane Kays in our first meeting following her death and spent the day in an intensive collaborative workshop to draft assessments for the 2015 Equality Report Card. Assessments then went back to government and community representatives.
- **141st meeting: June 24, 2015, Cornwall, PEI**
  Equality Report Card Launch
  Council launched the 2015 Equality Report Card with a well-attended news conference at the June 2015 Council meeting. The Report Card awarded a grade of "C" for actions towards women's equality goals. Michelle Jay led Council members in a discussion of the Purple Ribbon Campaign goals and actions.

Council members in Charlottetown at the February 2016 meeting.

- **142nd meeting: September 16, 2015, Orwell, PEI**
  Strategic Planning
  "Diversity" and "inclusion" were themes for the day as Council members participated in a strategic planning workshop in the morning with facilitator Jill Lightwood and welcomed Suna Houghton from the PEI Association for Newcomers to Canada in the afternoon for a presentation on the ANC's multicultural education program.
- **143rd meeting: October 28, 2015, Summerside, PEI**
  Strategic Planning Follow-up
  At the beautiful Centre Belle-Alliance in Summerside, Council members made plans and decisions to follow up from the September strategic planning. Council members made input into Council's upcoming November presentation in favour of proportional representation to the Special Committee on Democratic Renewal.
- **144th meeting: December 18, 2015, Charlottetown, PEI**
  A business meeting scheduled for December 4 was postponed due to bad weather, but Council members who were able to get to Charlottetown helped to coordinate that day's annual Montreal Massacre Memorial Service. The Council's business meeting was rescheduled to December 18.
- **145th meeting: February 10, 2016, Charlottetown, PEI**
  Setting Priorities for the Next Equality Report Card
  At Kelly Robinson's last meeting as Chair, Council members decided on priorities to assess for the next Equality Report Card; a new timeline will see this released in 2018. Members also discussed points to raise at the Child Protection Act Review and celebrated retiring members.

Advisory Council Members

Kelly Robinson, Stratford — Chairperson

Council term: March 1, 2011, to March 1, 2016

Vice-Chairperson's term: January 22, 2013, to July 27, 2015

Chairperson's term: July 28, 2015, to March 1, 2016

Kelly Robinson is Program Coordinator at Community Legal Information Association (CLIA), and serves as Provincial Advisor to PEI People First. Her working and volunteer career has focused on social justice issues with a focus on access to justice, women, persons with intellectual disabilities, sexual abuse survivors, and family violence prevention / intervention. She has a Masters degree in Theory, Culture and Politics from Trent University and a diploma in Conflict Resolution Studies from UPEI. She lives in Stratford with her menagerie of two cats, a conure parrot, and four budgies.

Catherine Rankin, Summerside — Vice-Chairperson

Council term: July 26, 2011, to July 26, 2016

Vice-Chairperson's term: July 28, 2015, to July 26, 2016

Catherine Rankin was born and raised in Summerside, PEI. She graduated from Athena Regional High School and completed one year of Business Administration at Holland College. Catherine retired in 2009 after a successful, 33-year career in the hospitality industry. She is a past member of the Charlottetown Royalty Rotary Club and the Summerside Rotary Club, past board member and Committee Chair of the Greater Charlottetown Area Chamber of Commerce, past Executive Board Member of Meetings PEI, and member of the Business Administration Advisory Committee, Holland College. She now lives back in her hometown of Summerside.

Melissa Mullen, Lewes — Treasurer (from June 2014)

Council term: January 22, 2013, to January 22, 2018

Melissa Mullen is a farmer, actor, and playwright in Lewes, PEI. She is also a board member for PARC (Playwrights Atlantic Resource Centre). Volunteer commitments include Farmers Helping Farmers School Twinning and the Montague Syrian Refugee Support Committee. Melissa has served on the boards of the PEI Certified Organic Producers' Co-op and TheatrePEI. She is a founding member of Beyond the Bridge Theatre, a women-centred theatre company which produces Canadian plays with challenging roles for women. She is also a member of the Homestead Players, bringing Island history to the stage.

Advisory Council Members, continued

Mari Basiletti, Canoe Cove — Member & Incoming Chairperson

Council term: January 22, 2013, to January 22, 2018

Chairperson's term: March 1, 2016, to January 22, 2018

Mari obtained a BFA in Fine Arts from Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan in 1969, and a Diploma in Occupational Therapy (OT) from WSU in 1972. She completed a M.Sc. in occupational therapy from Dalhousie University in 2006. During her career as an OT, Mari was employed in acute psychiatry, community mental health, private practice and in long-term care. Mari has worked with children, adolescents, and adult survivors of abuse within her clinical practice, and has been actively involved in PEI groups and agencies that are working together to improve services to women and children and to eliminate violence and abuse in our communities. Mari loves to paint in oils and watercolors and often portrays the strength and spirit of women through her art. She retired in 2012 from her position as supervisor of Rehabilitation Services at Hillsborough Hospital in Charlottetown after almost 40 years of occupational therapy practice. Mari resides in Canoe Cove with her partner, JoDee, and has two sons and two grandchildren. She is a member of the local Women's Institute and the Canoe Cove Community Association.

Eileen Brown, West Cape — Member

Council term: March 1, 2011, to resignation in August 2015

Eileen Brown worked in the banking business prior to 21 years' employment with the Workers Compensation Board of PEI. She retired from the Board in January 2011. She is also an active union member, having served on numerous UPSE Committees representing women's equality and education concerns. She is currently the Director of Local 19 UPSE Retirees, a Board Member of UPSE, and on the National Union Action on Retiree Concerns (NUARC) Committee.

Yvonne Deagle, Miminegash — Member

Council term: September 9, 2014, to September 9, 2017

Yvonne Deagle is the current vice-chairperson of Actions Femmes. She has a background as a municipal councillor and municipal administrator and has also worked in accounting. Today, Yvonne works for the French School Board and is an active volunteer on numerous boards of Acadian and Francophone community organizations. Yvonne has great energy and a sense of humour. She is the mother of two grown children, grandmother of five, and great-grandmother of one.

Louise MacLeod, Uigg — Member

Council term: March 1, 2011, to March 1, 2016

Louise MacLeod worked many years as a nurse and nurse supervisor, a case worker with Protestant Family Services Bureau, and a teacher in adult education. These experiences made her very aware of the many challenges women face. She has been an active volunteer with Women's Institute, United Church Women, PEI Volunteers for Literacy, 4-H, and other organizations. She has served on boards for Human Resources Development Canada appeals, Orwell Corner Historic Village, and the Sir Andrew Macphail Homestead. She and her husband Arnold raised a son, a daughter, and a foster daughter and have always been involved in the care of family and neighbours.

Advisory Council Members, continued

Diana Lariviere, Argyle Shore — Member

Council term: July 28, 2015, to July 28, 2018

Diana Lariviere, C.Arb., is a chartered arbitrator with an extensive background in Human Resource Management. Her experience in HR includes policy writing and presenting training and information sessions on a wide range of HR-related issues. Diana served as Chair of the PEI Social Assistance Appeal Board from 2012 to 2015, during which time she had the opportunity to highlight areas of concern relating to women. A longtime volunteer, Diana serves on several other volunteer boards and is an active member of the Argyle Shore Women's Institute. Diana's current focus is on freelance writing and, as a licensed PEI Marriage Commissioner, on performing civil marriages and baby-naming ceremonies across the province.

Patti Wheatley, Cornwall — Member

Council term: January 22, 2013, to January 22, 2018

Patti Wheatley holds a Bachelor of Arts from St. Thomas University where she studied Human Rights and Sociology, and a Bachelor of Laws from the University of New Brunswick. She has a demonstrated interest in women's issues and has worked with a variety of organizations, from small women's groups to the United Nations. Her areas of research and interest include women's health, human rights, and non-traditional women's work. Patti also continues to be involved with organizations focused on HIV/AIDS. Patti practices law at Stewart McKelvey in Charlottetown, with a focus on labour/employment and litigation.

Council Member Highlights & Changes, 2015–2016:

Members of the Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women are appointed by Executive Council, selected from among Island women who have demonstrated a commitment to women's equality. Women self-nominate for inclusion through the "Engage PEI" program.

Members usually represent regional, cultural, and ethnic diversity, including groups such as women of colour and young, lesbian, Aboriginal, Francophone, disabled, low-income, and senior women. Council members are appointed for two- and three-year terms and may serve a maximum total of five years.

In the 2015–2016 fiscal year, Diana Lariviere was appointed as a new member in July 2015. (*See photo top left.*) Eileen Brown resigned her seat on Council in August 2015. Mari Basiletti, Melissa Mullen, and Patti Wheatley were reappointed for second terms in January 2016.

Kelly Robinson and Louise MacLeod completed their maximum terms in March 2016 and received service awards for their contributions. (*See photos to right.*)

At year's end, Council received word that Debbie Langston of Blooming Point was appointed as a new member as of March 22, 2016, and Mari Basiletti was appointed as new Chairperson. (*See photo to left.*)

Advisory Council Staff

The Advisory Council had two full-time and one part-time permanent staff members in 2015–2016.

Jane Ledwell — Executive Director

Jane was hired in June 2004 as a researcher and policy analyst. She was hired as Executive Director in September 2012 and works full-time.

Becky Tramley — Office Manager

Becky joined Council staff in October 1986 and works part-time as Office Manager.

Michelle Jay — Program Coordinator

Michelle was hired as Program Coordinator in September 2012 and works full-time.

Staff Development, 2015–2016:

- The staff and chairperson continue to have a regularly scheduled weekly meeting and to take opportunities for team-building and community-building together.
- UPEI intern Allyson Richards volunteered at the Advisory Council for the fall school term. She was a lovely, cheerful presence who offered many hours toward the purple ribbon campaign and supporting ACSW community events.
- The ED and Program Coordinator participated in sessions on sexual abuse (April 9, Lived Though This, lecture by Anne Ream; April 10, Nobody's Victim, seminar with Clifton Spargo); a training seminar on Graphic Fundamentals (April 30); and a webinar on domestic violence homicides (December 10);
- The ED participated in the workshop Innovative Interventions with High Conflict Parents (June 9).
- Office Manager Becky received Records Information Management training from the province (fall 2015).
- Chairperson Kelly Robinson enrolled in the Cape Breton University free course Learning from Knowledge-Keepers of Mi'kma'ki (winter 2016).
- Individual staff participated in a variety of workshops and webinars.

Becky, Jane, and Michelle with UPEI student intern Allyson Richards.

National Coalition of Advisory Councils

The National Coalition of Provincial and Territorial Advisory Councils on the Status of Women was formed in 1995 to provide a venue for strategic action on issues of concern to Canadian women. The Coalition formed when the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women ceased that same year, leaving a gap in national advocacy. The PEI Advisory Council is joined in the Coalition by similar women's Advisory Councils from other regions of Canada.

Coalition of Provincial & Territorial Advisory Councils on the **Status of Women**

List of Major Coalition Activities, 2015–2016:

- The National Coalition of Provincial and Territorial Advisory Councils on the Status of Women held its annual meeting in Halifax on September 17th and 18th, 2015. It was hosted by the Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women and chaired by Linda Ross of Newfoundland and Labrador. The meeting was again an opportunity to reinforce the work being done, while also sharing resources and best practices.
- Jane Ledwell and Michelle Jay represented the PEI Council.
- During the meeting, the Coalition launched a bilingual Voter Card with pertinent questions regarding the status of women that could be used to kick-start conversations when talking to candidates before the 2015 Federal Election. The questions covered issues such as inaccessible housing, uneven availability of affordable child care, and growing economic inequality and income gap between genders. The Voter Card attracted some very good national attention during the federal election.
- In 2015–2016, among other actions, the National Coalition joined the Up for Debate Campaign to promote women's rights during the federal election and signed on to campaigns calling for a national inquiry into missing and murdered Indigenous women and a national strategy on violence against women and girls.
- The National Coalition now has an account on Twitter: @CPTACW.

Equality Report Card

The Equality Report Card assesses the PEI government's progress towards implementing recommendations related to women's equality. Council released a pilot Report Card in 2008. Subsequent Equality Report Cards have been published in 2009, 2011, and 2013.

The Equality Report Card is a tool to follow up on recommendations and advice. Since its inception, the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women has made recommendations to government for changes in policy and legislation to benefit the lives of Island women, girls, and their families. They have shared recommendations with government through the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women and other officials in policy guides, correspondence, briefings, submissions, and meetings, both independently and in partnership with other equality-seeking organizations.

The Council develops the Report Card in collaboration with government and the community.

2015 Equality Report Card:

- The 2015 Advisory Council on the Status of Women Equality Report Card awarded the PEI government a grade of "C" for work from June 2013 to April 2015 to address the equality goals of women and under-represented groups on the Island. This grade was the same as the grade government achieved in 2013.
- Some highlights in the report included impressive work towards gender parity on government boards and nation-leading steps to analyze policy to see how government decisions may affect women, men, and diversity groups differently.
- Lowlights included ongoing difficulties accessing legal aid lawyers, lack of reproductive health supports, and challenges the Province faces as it adjusts to federal changes and cutbacks to programs such as Employment Insurance and adult education and training programs. Council members also underlined lack of action to address poverty.
- Information in the Report Card was provided by government departments. Council members then reviewed and selected evidence to develop draft grades and a draft report.
- Council held three focus groups to inform the report. Focus group participants in 2015 included past chairpersons of the Council, newcomers to Canada, and Islanders living with disabilities.
- Government and community representatives review and validate the draft report, and it is updated to reflect their feedback.
- The full Equality Report Card was translated and published in French in July.
- From November 2015 to March 2016, Council members reviewed past priority action areas and selected areas to be assessed for the next Report Card. After discussion with government representatives, Council decided on a new timeline for Report Cards and will now release Report Cards every four years, once per mandate of government. We will usually release the report in June of the third year of a government's mandate.
- The next Equality Report Card will be released in June 2018.

Yvonne Deagle, Jane Ledwell, and Kelly Robinson at the Equality Report Card launch, June 2015.

Other Research & Policy Work

Whenever possible, the Advisory Council submits briefs to public consultations on issues of concern to women and families. Council's submissions build on past policy recommendations to government. They are developed in consultation with Council members and often include consultation with community members or organizations.

Highlights of Other Research & Policy Work, 2015–2016:

- **Presentation and Submission to the Special Committee on Democratic Renewal** (November 4)

  The PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women has held a position in favour of proportional representation for more than ten years. The Council submitted a brief entitled "Gender, Diversity, and Electoral Reform to the Special Committee on November 4. Executive Director Jane Ledwell also presented the brief verbally and responded to the Committee's questions.

  On behalf of the Council, Jane Ledwell also attended the Special Committee's second round of consultation on democratic renewal in Charlottetown on February 9. This consultation was a round-table discussion.

  The Special Committee on Democratic Renewal's reports, transcripts, and submissions are available here: http://www.assembly.pe.ca/democraticrenewal/

- **Child Protection Act Review** (February 22)

  Advisory Council representatives were invited to a facilitated consultation as part of the Child Protection Act Review in February 2016. Chairperson Kelly Robinson and executive director Jane Ledwell both attended and shared perspectives provided by Advisory Council members at their February 10 meeting and following.

  From the Backgrounder on the consultation: "The Child Protection Act was proclaimed in 2003 to replace the Family & Child Services Act. The intent of the substantive legislative changes were to improve service to children in need of protection from parental harm. The Child Protection Act also introduced a new provision requiring that the Minister appoint an advisory committee to review the Act. The purpose of the review is to report on the operation and administration of the Act to determine that the principles and purposes of the Act are being achieved."

Government/Community Special Project, 2015–2016:

- **Premier's Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention Strategic Plan** (released February 2016)

  The Premier's Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention (PAC) is a partnership of government departments and agencies, community organizations, and police. In 2015–2016, the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women was proud to provide support to PAC's work to develop an updated provincial family violence prevention strategy. Advisory Council staff contributed collaborative writing, editing, and layout.

  Strategies for Addressing Family Violence in Prince Edward Island / Stratégie de lutte contre la violence familiale à l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard was released in February 2016 at a news conference prior to Family Violence Prevention Week. The strategy identifies 13 goals and 43 strategies for enhancing family violence prevention in PEI.

Inquiries & Referrals

The Advisory Council responds to inquiries from individuals, groups, and government. These range from requests for information to crisis calls and requests for advocacy. People make inquiries in person or by telephone, e-mail, or correspondence. Inquiries are often complex and often come from women who have unsuccessfully tried to get service elsewhere.

The Advisory Council does not have the mandate or resources to provide services or to advocate for individual women. We offer support with information, referrals, and, at times, interventions with formal systems. The concerns women raise in individual inquiries often lead to policy analysis by Council to address underlying systemic discrimination.

About Inquiries, 2015–2016:

- **Relationship break-ups:** Requests from individuals and service providers for the Council publication *Moving On: A Practical Guide for Women Leaving a Relationship* continued to be strong. Relationship break-ups are especially vulnerable times for women, with impacts on their physical, emotional, and financial wellbeing. Women reported experiencing challenges in accessing social assistance, legal aid, maintenance enforcement, and child custody arrangements, among other issues.
- **Sexual and reproductive health:** Often a concern for women of all ages and stages of life, there was great interest in the new resource *Sexual and Reproductive Health-Care Services in PEI for People with Female Parts*.
- **PEI issues:** Chairperson Kelly Robinson followed up on a number of issues during her tenure, including a transphobic radio ad; gender bias in a Health PEI mailout; and a woman searching for abortion care using the website Kijiji. Council members and staff spent considerable time and effort encouraging women to apply for positions on agencies, boards and commissions through *Engage PEI* (previously *Participate PEI*).
- Calls received touched on the complex challenges of lack of income to support a healthy life; male violence in relationships and associated issues including child custody and access, reproductive health services and challenges in accessing abortion care; mental health issues; lack of supports for women pursuing political leadership (childcare expenses not eligible expenses under Elections PEI); Aboriginal women's equality issues; sex/gender/identity questions; concerns about a spouse suffering dementia; lack of understanding/acceptance for women needing a service dog and need for adequate services for women with disabilities. Many people called for information about making donations to *First Impressions*, which offers free clothing and accessories to women trying to re-enter the workforce.
- **General inquiries:** Also prevalent were inquiries related to women's health generally – food security, sexual and reproductive health, basic income guarantee – and justice-related issues. This year, a number of callers requested information and advocacy concerning childcare subsidies for women on Income Support who want to upgrade their skills by attending an educational program. Underlying multiple challenges women face is the often-present burden of impoverishment.
- **Referrals:** Referrals are frequently made to Family Violence Prevention Services and the Rape and Sexual Assault Centre in cases where violence or sexual abuse/assault occur. Referrals are sometimes made to the PEI Human Rights Commission or to IRAC. Quite frequently referrals are made to the CLIA PEI Lawyer Referral Service: the majority of women who call the Advisory Council need to consult a lawyer and do not have the resources to do so. Many referrals respond to requests for information, and staff direct people to organizations such as the Council of People with Disabilities, Community Legal Information Association, Interministerial Women's Secretariat, PEI Association for Newcomers to Canada, Family Resource Centres, Abortion Rights Network, and PEI Business Women's Association.

Media

The Advisory Council regularly submits news releases and opinion pieces to the media. The Council also responds to requests for comment on issues that affect women and families.

Ordinarily, approved spokespersons on behalf of the Council are the Chairperson, the Executive Director, and the Program Coordinator.

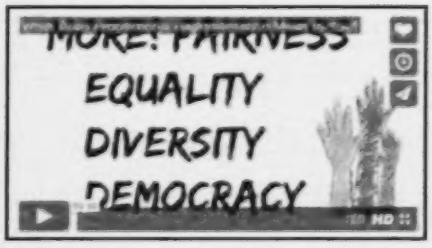
The Advisory Council began producing occasional video news releases in-house in September 2011 and has a channel at vimeo.com/peistatusofwomen.

News Releases, 2015–2016:

- Election Promises to Support the Most Vulnerable / Promesses electorales pour venir en aide aux plus vulnerables (April 22)
- PEI Provincial Government Earns a "C" for Work on Women's Equality / Le gouvernement de l'Î.-P.-É. obtient un C pour le progrès dans son travail en matière d'égalité des femmes (June 24)
- New Member and New Roles / Nouveau membre and de nouveaux rôles (August 25)
- National Coalition of Provincial and Territorial Advisory Councils on the Status of Women launches Voter Card during 2015 Election (September 25)
- Women's History Month Celebrates Inspiring Forebears (October 22)
- Purple Ribbon Campaign Launches with Continued Focus on Indigenous Women / Lancement de la Campagne du ruban violet : accent sur les femmes autochtones (November 25)

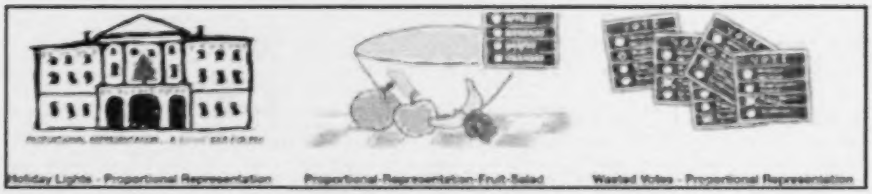
Letters to the Editor and Opinion Pieces, 2015–2016:

- Ending Violence Against Women: There is Help (July 15)
- Niqab in Question (October 9)
- Because It's 2015: Ending Violence Against Indigenous Women and Girls in Canada / Parce que nous sommes en 2015 : éliminer la violence à l'égard des femmes et des filles autochtones du Canada (December 4)
- The Obligation Facing Canadians: Truth and Reconciliation (February 24)
- Gender Parity and Gender Equality for IWD 2016 / Journée internationale de la femme 2016 : parité hommes-femmes et égalité des sexes (March 8)



Videos, 2015–2016, at http://vimeo.com/peistatusofwomen:

- Council staff created one new video for the ACSW's channel, *What Does Proportional Representation Mean to You* (created for the Coalition for Proportional Representation's presentation to the Special Committee on Democratic Renewal, October 2015) https://vimeo.com/142587464; also posted by the Special Committee here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=puyqUFZNM3k&feature=youtu.be
- Council staff also created three short videos for the Coalition for Proportional Representation's channel at https://vimeo.com/peipr. These videos have more than 200 views. Videos available here:
  - *Holiday Lights* https://vimeo.com/146029379
  - *Wasted Votes* https://vimeo.com/146919534
  - *Fruit Salad* https://vimeo.com/159944484



Interview Requests, 2015–2016:

- **CBC Television/Radio**: difficulty accessing childcare subsidies (April 15); reproductive health services (June 2); kudos to First Impressions women's clothing donation (July 31); letter of apology to woman who had trouble accessing follow-up abortion care (August 20); the niqab as an issue in the federal election (October 9); democratic renewal and women (November 4); PEI lowest wages in Canada (December 1); Montreal Massacre Memorial Service (December 4); oversight of physicians (January 15/18); Truth and Reconciliation study group (February 9); International Women's Day (March 7)
- **Radio-Canada,** *Le Réveil*: Purple Ribbon Campaign and Memorial Service (December 4); International Women's Day (March 8)
- **Radio-Canada Télévision/Radio:** women's issues in the provincial election (April 21); reproductive health services (June 2); Equality Report Card launch (June 24); letter of apology to woman who had trouble accessing follow-up abortion care (August 20); National Coalition of Advisory Councils voter card (September 29); reproductive health services (March 31)
- **CFCY:** Missing and murdered Aboriginal women and murdered PEI women (December 4)
- **Ocean 100:** Montreal Massacre Memorial Service (December 4)
- **Charlottetown *Guardian*:** reproductive health services (June 2); reproductive health services (March 31)
- ***La Voix Acadienne***: Equality Report Card launch (June 24)
- ***National Post***: homophobia in provincial election campaign (May 1)
- **Canadian Press:** reproductive health services (June 2)
- **Communications PEI:** comment for Government news release on appointment of Nancy Orr as Chief Judge of Provincial Court (November 20)
- **Other:** Holland college journalism students re. current women's issues (April 9); freelance media re. reproductive health services (June 2); New Brunswick *Telegraph-Journal* re. domestic violence policy (August 26); *Gazette des femmes* (Conseil statut de la femme Quebec) re. medical abortion pill (November 25).

Ann Sherman, Chair of the Premier's Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention, family violence prevention coordinator Wendy Verhoek-Oftedahl, and Jane Ledwell at the news conference to launch the new family violence prevention strategy. Photo credit: Brian Simpson, Government of PEI.

News Conferences, 2015–2016:

- Organized news conference for Abortion Rights Network representatives re. follow-up care for medical abortion (May 22)
- Attended Government news conference to announce increased access to abortion care through Moncton Hospital (June 2)
- News conference launch of the 2015 Equality Report Card (June 24)
- Participated in Coalition for Proportional Representation news conference (November 10)
- Participated in Premier's Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention news conference to release its new provincial family violence prevention strategy (*ED as a speaker* – follow-up interviews on behalf of PAC with CBC TV/Radio and *La Voix Acadienne*)
- Attended Government news conferences for announcement of women's reproductive health centre (March 31)

New Media & Social Media

Advisory Council on the Status of Women staff members independently manage content of the Advisory Council's official website at http://www.gov.pe.ca/acsw. Whenever possible, news releases and publications are made available on-line on the website as they are released.

The Advisory Council also uses social media to educate and engage. The Council has maintained a blog since September 2007. A presence on social networking sites Facebook and Twitter started in March 2012.

Wordpress Blog, 2015–2016, http://peiacsw.wordpress.com:

- People made about **10,179** visits to the blog, or just under **850** a month.
- Top posts were an open letter from the PEI Abortion Rights Network on abortion care, viewed **2,100** times, and a letter to the editor by Kelly Robinson, "Ending Violence Against Women: There Is Help," viewed **1,200** times. The blog continues to be a good space to share the e-newsletter for non-subscribers and to highlight events and issues.

Twitter, 2015–2016, @peiacsw:

- At March 31, **555** tweets had been posted the previous year. We had about **2,010** followers, a gain of about **610** over the previous year.
- Highlights included live-tweets of the April 14 PEI Leaders' Forum on Women's Issues, which got #LFWI trending nationally; release of the June 2015 Equality Report Card; comments on the September 24 French federal #debatdeschefs; RTs of our e-newsletter; tweets about #MMIW (missing and murdered Indigenous women) and #basicincome; tweets on reproductive rights and abortion care; and participation in Twitter chats.

Facebook, 2015–2016, http://facebook.com/peistatusofwomen:

- At March 31, the Facebook page had **597** "likes," up from **420** in 2014–15. Posts were made more frequently; both reach and engagement are rising.
- More than 30 posts had **over 1,000** views, a new milestone. Topics included abortion access; consent; MMIW; male privilege; transphobia; domestic violence; residential school survivors; basic income; poverty and access to food; women in government; and sexualizing girls.
- Another 65 posts had over **500 views**, on sexual assault and shaming; beauty standards; girls' dress codes; working moms; female athletes; feminist comedy; PRIDE events; temporary foreign workers; truth and reconciliation centre; work-life balance; fatphobia; and physician oversight.
- Local women's accomplishments also generated interest: anniversary of Diane Kays death; first women RCMP Chief Superintendent Joanne Crampton; First Impressions women's clothing donation store; ACSW bursary winners; and Council members' service awards.

Newsletters & Activities Updates

Members of the Advisory Council's traditional (snail mail) mailing list numbered over 700 by the end of the fiscal year. They receive *Activities Updates* and special Council publications and promotions.

As a free community service, subscribers to the weekly e-newsletter receive submitted listings of community notices.

E-Newsletter, 2015–2016:

- More than **250** people subscribe to the e-news, an increase of more than **80** over last year. Our e-newsletter with community events and notices about upcoming events, activities, or items of interest for women in the community is sent directly to our subscriber list usually every Thursday and is also available at a link from our blog at peiacsw.wordpress.com.
- Subscriptions are welcome at http://eepurl.com/rQH6P.

Activities Updates and Other Mailouts, 2015–2016:

- Equality Report Card (to a selected mailing list, August 2015)
- *Activities Update*, Fall/Winter 2015 and Purple Ribbon Campaign materials (November 2015)

Collaboration with Community & Government

Meetings & Correspondence on Issues

Advisory Council members and staff attend many meetings and consultations representing the Advisory Council each year. Often, what Council learns in these meetings helps set priorities for Council. Sometimes, in lieu of meeting with officials, the Advisory Council offers analysis in correspondence.

Meetings with the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women, 2015–2016:

- Council Chairperson Kelly Robinson met three times with Minister Responsible for the Status of Women, Hon. Paula Biggar. Each meeting is supported by a memorandum outlining issues. The PEIACSW Executive Director and Program Coordinator regularly participate in the meetings, as does the Director of the Interministerial Women's Secretariat.
    - **June 12, 2015:** In this first meeting with Min. Biggar as the new Minister Responsible for the Status of Women, topics included an orientation to Council's role and its work; gender representation in Cabinet composition; abortion access developments after the announcement of self-referral for care at Moncton Hospital; follow-up to recommendations emerging from the Campbell/Hennessey Inquest; the 2015 Equality Report Card results; and future relationship-building with the Chairperson and Advisory Council.
    - **October 2, 2015:** Topics included women's history month activities; the Participate PEI program; diversity on the Advisory Council; the Purple Ribbon Campaign Against Violence Against Women's theme of missing and murdered Indigenous women; and the National Coalition of Advisory Councils' federal election voter card.
    - **January 21, 2016:** Topics included the Council's budget request for 2016–2017; the new Engage PEI program replacing and updating the previous Participate PEI process; the next Equality Report Card and how to collaborate with government to achieve high grades; and appointments and re-appointments to the Advisory Council, including a nomination for Chairperson.

Kelly Robinson meeting with Senator Elizabeth Hubley and Melanie Nicholson from the Senator's Office.

Other Selected Meetings with Officials, 2015–2016:

- Phone, e-mail, and in-person consultations with the Director of the Interministerial Women's Secretariat (ongoing)
- Meetings with representatives of Status of Women Canada (September 17)
- Chair and staff meeting with Senator Elizabeth Hubley and her staff on emerging issues for Island women (October 27)

Selected Correspondence, 2015–2016:

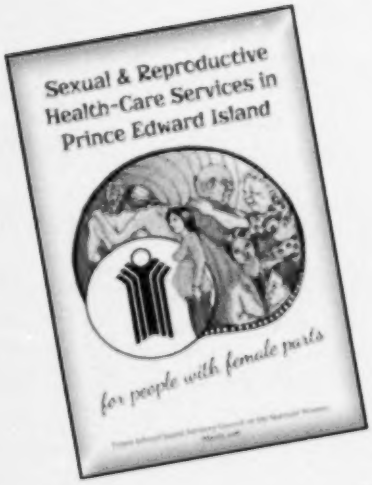
- Letters of congratulations and orientation to the Council, to Premier MacLauchlan and to all party leaders following the election (May 11)
- Card of appreciation to outgoing Min. Responsible Valerie Docherty (May 13)
- Letter to federal Democratic Institutions Minister re. Senate Advisory Boards (January 21)
- Letters of support for organizations seeking funding for equality projects; letters of reference for women associated with our work; nominations of Island women for awards and honours; and cards of recognition from the Council Chairperson to women who achieve notable things (ongoing)

Community Consultations

The Advisory Council staff, Chairperson and Council members consult with many individuals, organizations, and sectors on a variety of issues related to the status of women on PEI.

Community Consultations, 2015–2016:

- Chairperson Kelly Robinson's consultations included meetings with community organizations and individuals to study recommendations from the Campbell/Hennessey Inquest, which followed the murder-suicide of a child, Nash Campbell, and his mother, Trish Hennessey (spring 2015)
- The Chairperson also met with UPEI feminist researcher Dr. Colleen MacQuarrie about research opportunities (September 3) and with the executive director of the PEI Coalition for Women in Government about gender and diversity on agencies, boards and commissions (October 27)
- In October/November, Chairperson Kelly Robinson consulted with and worked in partnership with Pride PEI to address a transphobic local radio advertisement. The ad eventually stopped running and the radio station made an apologetic phone call to Pride PEI and to the ACSW office.
- The Executive Director made presentations to a variety of students, local organizations, and researchers. These included the Actions-Femmes board re. Strategic Planning (July 16); Colonel Gray High School English Additional Language students re. human rights (November 12); the Charlottetown Area Christian Council re. basic income (on behalf of the Working Group for a Livable Income, January 19); and a UPEI political science class (March 1).
- The Program Coordinator made presentations or was a guest speaker to the following: Food Security Network AGM on basic income (May 19); Institute for Canadian Citizenship on women's equality and citizenship (September 24); and Canada Revenue Agency on women's equality (March 10).
- The Program Coordinator consulted about the purple ribbon theme "healthy relationships and right relations" with Aboriginal Women's Association, Family Violence Prevention Services, Interministerial Women's Secretariat, Association for Newcomers, and the Department of Education.
- During regular Council meetings, consultations focused on newcomers to Canada and immigration trends (with Suna Houghton, PEIANC); Campbell-Hennessey inquiry recommendations and child advocacy, Child Protection Act review, and an internal strategic planning process led by Jill Lightwood.



New Publication, 2016:

- Based on community consultations that took place in 2014–2015, the Advisory Council on the Status of Women published a resource guide on women's sexual and reproductive health. *Sexual and Reproductive Health-Care Services in Prince Edward Island – for People with Female Parts*, updated to March 2016, is a resource guide to sexual and reproductive health services in PEI, first drafted by outgoing Chairperson Kelly Robinson and illustrated by incoming Chairperson Mari Basiletti. Council's Program Coordinator consulted with more than a dozen expert and interested community organizations and individuals for feedback and updates.
- The Council looks forward to re-launch this resource booklet with new services promised on March 31, 2016, as part of a women's reproductive health centre in 2016–2017. Promised services include hospital-based medical and surgical abortion care, pre- and post-testing for fertility treatment, and support for post-partum mental health.

Chairs Circle 2015

In 2015, the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women held its fourth annual roundtable of past and present Chairpersons of the Advisory Council.

Through facilitated discussion, they reflected on ACSW challenges and achievements in key areas in the past three decades. The Chairs Circle is an opportunity to share collective knowledge and experience among long-time women's equality advocates.

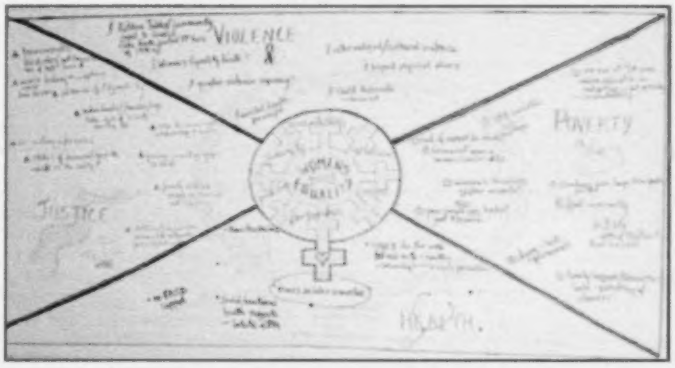
Chairs Circle
Prince Edward Island

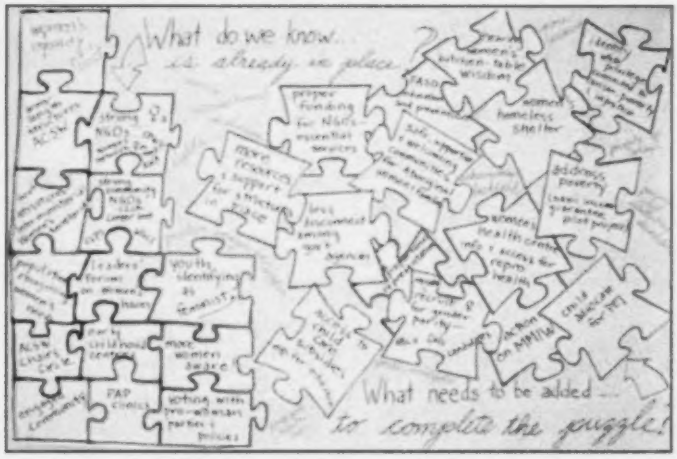
Chairs Circle, 2015:

- The 2015 Chairs Circle took place on May 17, at the Advisory Council on the Status of Women office in Charlottetown. Kelly Robinson hosted as Vice-Chairperson and six past Chairpersons took part.
- The 2015 Chairs Circle served as a focus group for the 2015 Equality Report Card, focusing on themes of health, violence, poverty, and justice. Chairs' discussion was recorded in graphic formats by Michelle and Jane.

Back row: Kelly Robinson, Barb Currie, Dianne Porter, and Colleen MacQuarrie. Front row: Anne Nicholson, Eileen Brown, and Sharon O'Brien.

Michelle's graphic facilitation of the Chairs Circle discussion: what are the themes related to violence, poverty, health, and justice.

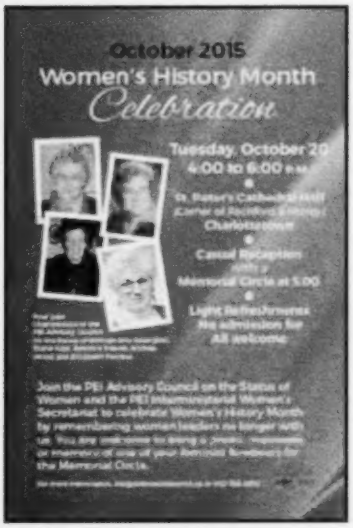




Jane's graphic report of the Chairs Circle conclusions: what puzzle pieces are in place to support women's equality, and what puzzle pieces need to be added.

Women's History Month Memorial Circle

October is Women's History Month across Canada. Thanks to a bequest from the estate of Diane Kays, the Advisory Council on the Status of Women partnered with the Interministerial Women's Secretariat to host a Women's History Month reception to celebrate and remember our inspiring feminist forebears.



Memorial Circle Highlights:

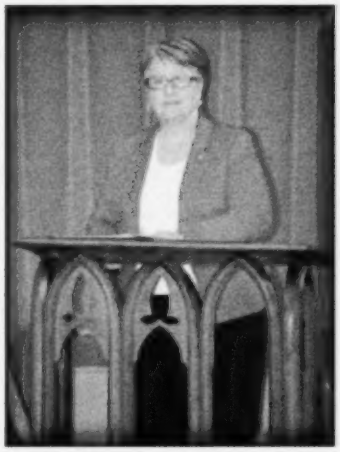
On October 20, 2015, the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women and PEI Interministerial Women's Secretariat celebrated Women's History Month with a gathering to remember inspiring women of the past. More than fifty people took part in the celebration at St. Peter's Cathedral Hall in Charlottetown.

Minister Responsible for the Status of Women Paula Biggar recognized the ways local Prince Edward Island women have contributed to the greater equality women in Canada enjoy today.

Chairperson Kelly Robinson acknowledged the 40th anniversary of the Advisory Council and expressed hope that in the next 40 years, we will build on the work of our forebears to meet the goals women continue to reach for to attain full equality in all aspects of life.

A memorial circle at the celebration invited all those present to share a memory or a memento of an inspiring woman who touched their lives and is no longer with us. The ceremony brought to mind participants' extraordinary mothers, grandmothers, aunts, neighbours, and friends, as well as more widely known leaders in the arts, in labour, in sport, or in politics.

Specially remembered and honoured was social worker, counsellor, and advocate Diane Kays, who died in March 2015 while she was serving as the Chairperson of the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women.



Hon. Paula Biggar (above) and Chairperson Kelly Robinson (below) make comments at the memorial circle event.

A display honoured Chairpersons who have died, most recently and especially Diane Kays (left). Kelly, Minister Biggar, and Doreen Kays (right).

Community Events

The Advisory Council staff, Chairperson and Council members continue to consult informally with a variety of individuals, organizations, and sectors. The Chairperson, Executive Director, and Program Coordinator played a role in a number of events.

Community Events, 2015–2016:

- "Voice and Faces" presentation on sexual violence by Anne Ream (April 9)
- "Nobody's Victim" seminar on sexual violence by Clifton Spargo (April 10)
- Home and School Federation Leaders' Forum on Education (April 11)
- Leaders' Forum on Women's Issues, hosted by the PEI Coalition for Women in Government and Holland College Student Union (April 14 – *Council Chairperson asked a question re. a domestic violence court option; Council staff live-tweeted the event; forum questions were inspired by the Council's Equality Report Card 2013*)
- Charlottetown Community Forum on Basic Income Guarantee (April 16)
- Green Party event with federal leader Elizabeth May (May 1)
- Justice Options for Women Family Fun Day Expo (May 1 – *Program Coordinator as a co-organizer*)
- PEI People First "We Are Here" event (May 5)
- Speech from the Throne (May 3)
- Women's Network "Vision, Fundraising, and Theatre Night" (June 4)
- PEI People First workshop (June 5 – *ED as a panel presenter*)
- Abortion Rights Network rally/petition reading (June 16)
- Webcast of national Sexual Violence Knowledge Exchange (June 17)
- "Extremist Feminist" Summer Picnic (August 20)
- J.S. Palmer Conference at UPEI (September 3–4 – *ED as host/moderator*)
- Access to Justice Forum coordinated by Chief Justice Jenkins (September 9 – *ED as a panelist on family law*)
- Coalition for Proportional Representation founding meeting (September 9)
- Sisters in Spirit Vigil (October 2 – *Chair as a speaker*)
- Annual Aboriginal Justice Forum (October 16)
- Partners for Change – Has the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities Made a Difference? (November 3)
- Purple Ribbon Pinning Bee (November 9)
- Legislative Assembly statement on International Day for Elimination of Violence Against Women (November 25)
- Swearing in of new Chief Judge Nancy Orr (December 2)
- Seasonal open-houses for AIDS PEI (December 9), the PEI Human Rights Commission (December 10), PEI Association for Newcomers to Canada (December 10), Community Legal Information Association (December 11), Women's Network (December 11), Native Council of PEI (December 18), and the Voluntary Resource Centre (December 18)

Above: Kelly Robinson speaking at the 2015 Sisters in Spirit Vigil. Below: Elder Judy Clark, Kelly Robinson, and Sarah Jackson at the vigil.

Judy Clark, baby Colin O'Malley with Michelle Jay, and Julie Pelissier-Lush at the Equality Report Card launch in June 2015.

The Premier's Action Committee at the Charlottetown Walk in Silence for Victims of Family Violence, February 2016.

Community Events, 2015–2016, continued:

- PEI Coalition for Women in Government New Year's Levee (January 5)
- City of Charlottetown workshop on its Sustainability Plan (January 15)
- Abortion Access Now Hot Chocolate Social (January 28)
- Coalition for Proportional Representation general meeting/workshop (February 3)
- City of Charlottetown Inspired City Meet and Speak (February 4 – *ED as facilitator*)
- Annual Charlottetown Walk in Silence for Victims of Family Violence and reception at City Hall (February 17)
- Information session on Status of Women Canada call for proposals (February 23)
- Family Violence Prevention Services "Family Violence in the Workplace" Conference (February 24 – *ED and PC facilitated small group discussions*)
- International Women's Day Celebration of Island Women Filmmakers (March 8 – *co-organized with Island Media Arts Co-op*)
- PEI Business Women's Association/Interministerial Women's Secretariat "Faces of Leadership" event (March 9)
- NWAC/Aboriginal Women's Association consultation "Speak Your Mind about the Inquiry" consultation (March 23)
- Community Celebration of reproductive health announcement (March 31)

Some members of the PEI Coalition for Women in Government give the thumbs-up for the first ever federal cabinet with gender parity!

Hon. Paula Biggar and Jane Ledwell at the International Women's Day celebration, March 8, 2016.

Busy hands from the PEI Native Council Walking the Red Road program at the Purple Ribbon Pinning Bee, Beanz Cafe and Espresso Bar.

Truth and Reconciliation Commission Study Group

In 2015, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada issued its final report on the history and legacy of residential schools in Canada. The report also included 94 calls to Action for Canadians.

The Advisory Council on the Status of Women partnered with the Aboriginal Women's Association of Prince Edward Island and the Confederation Centre Public Library to host a series of study group sessions for people who were reading the report summary.

TRC Study Group, 2016:

- The Study Group on Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission took place at the Confederation Centre Public Library beginning in February 2016. Five of eight scheduled sessions took place in the 2015–2016 year.
- The study group provided interested Islanders an opportunity to read and discuss the summary of the final report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) of Canada, *Honouring the Truth, Reconciling for the Future: Summary of the Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada*. Participants were invited to join with others to reflect on the history and legacy of residential schools in Canada and on the TRC's 94 Calls to Action for reconciliation.

- Representatives from the Aboriginal Women's Association Elder Judy Clark, Cheryl Simon, and Eliza Starchild Knockwood provided ceremony and smudging to open each talking circle. They also shared their points of view as Aboriginal women.
- Each discussion session focused on a section of the summary report. Each session had a moderator and a counsellor for those who required assistance.
- Participants were welcome to come to one, several, or all sessions. Circles in 2015–2016 welcomed 15 to 30 participants, with a usual attendance rate of 25.
- Council's outgoing Chairperson Kelly Robinson moderated the March 3 circle; Program Coordinator Michelle Jay moderated the others.
- As part of the study group project and in recognition of the Confederation Centre Public Library's partnership, the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women donated to the PEI Public Library Service four copies of each of ten recommended books for children about the residential school experience. These were purchased with a gift to Council in Diane Kays's name and were donated to the library service in her memory.

Books about residential schools donated to the Public Library Service.

FVPS Counsellor Gloria Dennis, AWA President and Elder Judy Clark, Program Coordinator Michelle Jay, and incoming Chairperson Mari Basiletti at one of the TRC Study Group sessions.

Partnerships

The Advisory Council is committed to participating in the work of relevant coalitions, task forces, research projects, or other community-led activities. Council contributes in-kind work and expertise in gender-based analysis to our partner groups. Council members gain access to research, new perspectives, follow-up on advocacy, and more.

Program Coordinator Michelle Jay and Renee Laprise, Executive Director of IMAC, co-organizers of the IWD tribute to Island women filmmakers.

Photos from Family Fun Day Expo for newcomers to Canada, hosted by Justice Options for Women project, May 2015.

List and Description of Partnerships, 2015–2016:

- **Aboriginal Women's Association of PEI:** In 2014–2015, the Advisory Council became a member-at-large of this provincial association. Beginning in February 2016, our two organizations co-hosted a study group on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission report. We also collaborated on content for the 2015 Purple Ribbon Campaign teachers' guide and Montreal Massacre Memorial Service.
- **Abortion Rights Network:** Council's ED and Program Coordinator sit on this committee, which came together to advocate for equitable abortion services and to ensure women have accurate and accessible information about where and how to access abortion services.

  ACSW Role: Attending meetings, examining provincial policies; assisting with communication strategies; participating in projects and events.
- **International Women's Day (IWD) Committee:** Council's Program Coordinator brings together and leads this committee to plan and present events for International Women's Day.

  ACSW role: Coordinating the committee and leading IWD planning.
- **IWS Grant Adjudication Committee:** Council's ED sits on this committee to review applications and advise the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women on community grants, awarded by the Province where the organizations, principles, objectives, and activities of applicants support the legal, health, social, and economic equality of women.

  ACSW role: Adjudicating applications and reviewing related communications.
- **Justice Options for Women:** The Council's Program Coordinator serves on the advisory committee for this project. Justice Options creates opportunities for community dialogue and input into justice policy regarding the issues of violence against women and the impact on and of restorative justice. This is a necessary next step in encouraging and developing safe and effective responses to violence against women in PEI. Justice Options developed Circles of Safety and support for women at high risk of violence and is currently working on a project on government/community response to violence against women.

  ACSW role: Participating in meetings to set directions and develop project plans and funding applications; reviewing products and publications.
- **Mayor of Charlottetown's Purple Ribbon Task Force on Family Violence Prevention:** The Council's ED sits on this task force which works with the Charlottetown community on family violence prevention initiatives funded by the City of Charlottetown, under the banner "Peace Begins at Home" and incorporating the purple ribbon symbol.

  ACSW role: Consulting, planning, and assisting with projects and public events, including a conference on family violence in the workplace.

Members of the Premier's Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention, 2016. Photo by Brian Simpson, Province of PEI.

ACSW ED Jane Ledwell with Rape and Sexual Assault Centre ED Sigrid Rolfe and Family Violence Prevention Coordinator Wendy Verhoek-Oftedahl at an April 2015 presentation on survivors of sexual violence.

Some members of the Coalition for Women in Government at the January 2016 New Year's Levee.

List and Description of Partnerships, 2015–2016, continued:

- **PAC – Premier's Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention:** The Council's ED is appointed by the Premier to sit on this committee and its Administrative Group. PAC's mandate includes coordinating implementation of the provincial Family Violence Prevention Strategy. The ED also chairs the Evaluation Working Group and serves on the Family Violence Prevention Week Working Group and the Program Coordinator serves on the Youth Engagement Working Group. Chairperson 2015–2016 Kelly Robinson is appointed to PAC representing Community Legal Information Association (CLIA).

  ACSW role: Attending full group, administrative, and working group meetings; assisting with direction for the five-year strategy; reviewing documents; advocating for a focus on violence against women and children; providing insights on gender and equality roots of violence; participating in projects, publications, and events.
- **PEI Coalition for Fair EI:** The Council's Program Coordinator sits on this ad hoc committee that came together in 2012 to counter changes to the federal Employment Insurance system. The Coalition includes women's, labour, and social justice organizations.

  ACSW role: Contributing to plans for strategy, communications, and recommendations to government; offering gender analysis; participating in projects, events, and publications.
- **PEI Coalition for Proportional Representation:** Council's ED sits on the reference group for this coalition, founded in September 2015 to support movement towards proportional representation in PEI's electoral system. A core principle for the Coalition is promoting electoral systems that increase the diversity of elected representatives, including better gender balance.

  ACSW role: Participating in meetings and events; contributing gender analysis; contributing to communication tools and plans.
- **PEI Coalition for Women in Government:** Council's ED sits as a non-partisan member on this multi-partisan coalition that works to increase the number and proportion of women in elected positions in PEI. The Council's ED also sits on the Advisory Committee for a Status of Women Canada–funded project on Equity in Governance, to increase women on boards and in leadership on Prince Edward Island

  ACSW role: Helping to develop and execute workplans; contributing to creating and disseminating research, media work, and publications; participating in meetings and events.
- **PEI Food Security Network:** Council's ED and Program Coordinator participate in working groups for this action and education network to improve Islanders' food security (access to adequate affordable, healthy, culturally appropriate and personally acceptable food within a food system that supports producers).

  ACSW role: Participating in meetings, workshops, and events; contributing gender analysis; serving on working groups; assisting with communications as needed.

Celebration at the Voluntary Resource Centre with some members of the Abortion Rights Network following the announcement of the women's reproductive health centre and local access to abortion care for Island women, March 2016.

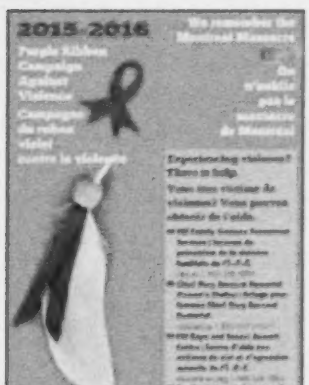
List and Description of Partnerships, 2015–2016, continued:

- **PEI Literacy Alliance:** The Council is a member of this provincial alliance dedicated to creating a culture of literacy and learning and delivering programs to support adult learners, families, and children in improving their literacy and essential skills.
  ACSW role: Attending annual and semi-annual meetings when possible; support and collaboration in our shared office space.
- **PEI Working Group for a Livable Income:** Council's ED and Program Coordinator serve on this coalition of a dozen community organizations that are active in working to eliminate poverty and advocate for a livable income for all Islanders to live in good health and with dignity.
  ACSW role: Participating in meetings and special events; developing recommendations to government on poverty elimination; contributing perspectives on women's poverty; taking minutes for meetings; taking our turn with other organizations to draft publications, correspondence, media releases, and briefs to government; coordinating and participating in community forums; creating a website and publications for the Campaign for a Basic Income Guarantee (C-BIG PEI).
- **RESPECT Project Advisory Committee:** The Council's Program Coordinator served on this Advisory Committee to a project on preventing and addressing sexual assault. The Status of Women Canada–funded project is led by the PEI Rape and Sexual Assault Centre and Women's Network PEI and completed its work in 2016.
  ACSW role: Participating in meetings and events; contributing to planning and priorities; taking part in evaluations.
- **Sexual Health Advisory Group:** The Council's Program Coordinator serves on this new advisory group, founded in 2016 and led by AIDS PEI to review sexual and reproductive health services and information resources available to all genders in Prince Edward Island.
  ACSW role: Participating in meetings, events, and planning; knowledge sharing, especially contributing perspectives from women's experiences.
- **Victim Services Advisory Committee**: Council member (now Chairperson) Mari Basiletti represents the Council on this committee. The Advisory Committee's purpose is to exchange information on current and emerging issues related to victims and to help develop policy, programs, services, and legislation and report to the Attorney General and government officials on the needs of victims of crime.
  ACSW role: Sharing information, especially from a gender perspective; identifying and bringing issues to the table for discussion.

Party leaders Peter Bevan-Baker, Rob Lantz, Wade MacLauchlan, and Mike Redmond and moderator Jill Lightwood (centre) at the Leaders' Forum on Women's Issues hosted by the PEI Coalition for Women in Government and Holland College Student Union.

Purple Ribbon Campaign Against Violence

November 25 is the annual International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. December 6 is the National Day of Remembrance and Action to commemorate the murder of 14 female engineering students in Montreal in 1989. Every year, the Advisory Council's Purple Ribbon Campaign involves volunteers Island-wide in an effort to distribute ribbons and information cards with facts and statistics about family violence. Islanders are encouraged to wear the purple ribbon on or near December 6, and again during Family Violence Prevention Week in February, to remember all women who are victims of violence. The Advisory Council also organizes and participates in the annual noontime Montreal Massacre Memorial Service in Charlottetown.



Purple Ribbon Campaign Highlights, 2015–2016:

Theme: Healthy relationships and right relations do not include violence.

Purple Ribbon Teachers' Guide: This year's bilingual guide for teachers included curriculum connections for Grades 7, 8, and 9 Social Studies, Grades 7, 8, and 9 Health, and high school family life education. It also provided teachers with resources on preventing violence against women. Handouts in English and French included background on the Purple Ribbon Campaign, a multilingual poster (featuring nine traditional and common-usage languages in PEI); resources on healthy relationships; information about the theme; ideas for being an ally with Aboriginal peoples; resources from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission; and first-person stories and poems from Aboriginal women.

Campaign Highlights, 2015–2016:

- Distribution of more than 17,000 bilingual bookmarks and ribbons; 130 Teachers' Guides resource packages to the Department of Education; and almost 3,000 purple ribbon temporary tattoos.
- Use of Kathy Knockwood Archer's poem "Survivors" and Dr. Lynn Gehl's "Idle No More Ally Bill of Responsibilities" in the teachers' guide resources.
- Use of Mi'kmaw artist Jonathan Labillois' "Still Dancing" image for the multilingual poster.
- Working with PEI Association for Newcomers to Canada and the Aboriginal Women's Association of PEI to translate the theme *Healthy relationships and right relations do not include violence* into nine (9) languages.
- The Purple Ribbon Campaign was officially launched on the UN's International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, November 25, 2015. The Minister Responsible for the Status of Women read a supporting statement in the PEI Legislature.
- A popular public pinning bee took place at Beanz, November 9, 2015.
- Financial and in-kind contributors to the Purple Ribbon Campaign included the Premier's Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention, Premier Wade MacLauchlan's office, the City of Charlottetown, Confederation Centre of the Arts, and the Interministerial Women's Secretariat.
- Special volunteer efforts and support to the Campaign came from the Federated Women's Institutes, Anderson House, Quilting B & More, Beanz Espresso Bar, UPEI intern Allyson Richards, and Native Council of PEI's Walking the Red Road youth program.

Leadership in Annual Events

Jingle-dress dancer Melissa Peter-Paul at the 2015 Montreal Massacre Memorial Service.

Guest Speaker Sharon O'Brien at the 2015 Montreal Massacre Memorial Service.

Sharon O'Brien, Sarah Jackson, Melissa Peter-Paul, Judy Clark and Julie Pellisier-Lush of the Aboriginal Women's Association with Kelly Robinson.

Montreal Massacre Memorial Service, 2015:

- The PEIACSW organized the Charlottetown Memorial Service held on December 4th in Memorial Hall at the Confederation Centre of the Arts. All available Advisory Council members took part. Almost 200 people attended the Charlottetown noontime service on a stormy day.
- Guest speaker Sharon O'Brien gave a moving speech on the importance of missing and murdered Indigenous women.
- Council members Melissa Mullen and Mari Basiletti read powerful stories of PEI women whose lives were changed or saved by front-line workers who helped them.
- The service included a tribute to front-line service providers, including presentation of a gift: a pocket mirror featuring a beautiful image by Council member Mari Basiletti. The tribute was inspired by late Chairperson Diane Kays's dedication to front-line work and the gift was funded by a bequest from her estate.

- Candle-lighters included Premier Wade MacLauchlan, Minister Responsible for the Status of Women Paula Biggar, Chiefs of PEI's Mi'kmaw band councils, the Mayor of Charlottetown, RCMP, City Police, and representatives from women's and equality-seeking groups in the community.
- The service included silhouettes of murdered PEI women from the UPSE Silent Witnesses Initiative, coordinated by Pam MacKinnon.
- Special contributions to the service were an opening prayer by Elder Judy Clark, table dressing by Eliza Starchild Knockwood, piano music by Dr. David Morrison, a jingle-dress dance by Melissa Peter-Paul, and candle-lighting by family members and friends of murdered PEI women.

Family Violence Prevention Week, February 14–20, 2016

- ACSW staff work closely with the Premier's Action Committee throughout the year, particularly during FVP Week, to share and distribute resources. Council staff helped with social media and communications resources to support provincial efforts.
- In the new calendar year, purple ribbons and informational bookmarks continued to be requested. Over 1,500 additional bookmarks and ribbons, 1,200 purple ribbon tattoos, and hundreds of posters and handouts were distributed leading up to and during FVP Week.
- Council members and staff participated in PAC's news conference release of its strategy document. Council staff participated in the Charlottetown Walk in Silence for Victims of Family Violence and reception at City Hall. Council members attended events hosted in their geographic communities in Montague and Summerside.
- The ED and Program Coordinator also participated in Family Violence Prevention Services "Family Violence in the Workplace" Conference (February 24 – *ED and PC facilitated small group discussions*).

International Women's Day – March 8

United Nations-declared International Women's Day (IWD) takes place on March 8th each year. Events on International Women's Day and the week surrounding it recognize women's ongoing struggle for equity.

The Advisory Council activities balance advocating for equality with celebrating the resilience and achievements of women – globally, nationally, and locally.

International Women's Day Highlights, 2016:

Donna Dingwell offers IWD words of inspiration from her experience as a union member.

- The Advisory Council IWD committee chose to profile Island women filmmakers by organizing a reception and film screening, which featured an eclectic diversity of local women artists. Both the reception and film screening were well attended; the Guild theatre was near capacity on March 8.
- During the reception, Kate Dempsey led the audience in singing a rousing version of *Bread and Roses* and City Worker/CUPE member Donna Dingwell spoke about her experiences as a unionized woman in a non-traditional field.
- 2016 IWD celebrations were organized in collaboration with Island Media Arts Co-op (IMAC), and with financial support from the Interministerial Women's Secretariat. Volunteer efforts from individual women and staff of community organizations are essential each year. As well, the financial support of local unions in 2016 was key: special appreciation to the PEI Federation of Labour, the Public Service Alliance of Canada, and the Canadian Union of Public Sector Employees.
- The Chairperson's editorial "Gender Parity and Gender Equity for IWD 2016" was published in *The Guardian* (March 6). Kelly also read this editorial for those who attended the reception before the film screening.

Michelle Harris-Genge and Minister Paula Biggar (above) and celebrants young and old (below) at the IWD reception.

Participants in the IWD reception (above) and packed into The Guild theatre to view the film screening (below).

Leadership in Annual Events

Bursaries for Women

In 2015, the Advisory Council revised and updated the criteria for its bursary program for women. The deadline to apply for bursaries is October 15 each year. Forms are available in English and French from gov.pe.ca/acsw.

The University of Prince Edward Island also administers an internal bursary in our name, awarded to a woman studying Engineering. Information about this bursary is available from the University of Prince Edward Island.

Bursary Recipients, 2015:

- **Diane Kays Memorial Bursary ($500)** is available to a woman-identifying student who is a resident of PEI and registered full-time at the University of Prince Edward Island, Holland College, or Collège Acadie.
  2015 Winner: Marilyn Enman
- **Inge Blackett Memorial Bursary ($500)** is for a woman-identifying PEI resident who entered Canada as a refugee and is pursuing further education.
  2015 Winner: Arpana Giri
- **PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women Engineering Bursary**: Administered by the University of Prince Edward Island, awarded in our name to a woman studying engineering. [Not awarded in 2015.]

Diane Kays's sister, Doreen Kays (left), presents the first annual Diane Kays Memorial Bursary to Marilyn Enman (right).

Publications List

The following is a summary list of publications mentioned throughout this report. These publications are usually available in hard copy from the Advisory Council or in electronic copy on its Website at http://www.gov.pe.ca/acsw.

- **Purple Ribbon Campaign Resource Guide for PEI Teachers / Guide de ressources pour les enseignant(e)s, Campagne du ruban violet contre la violence** (November 2015). *A bilingual, multi-grade guide for teachers, for use with the 2015–2016 Purple Ribbon Campaign Against Violence. Includes bilingual bookmarks with ribbons; a multilingual poster; handouts for students on right relations, ideas for allies of Aboriginal peoples, and healthy relationships; and resources for teachers such as a backgrounder, curriculum connections for Grade 7 Social Studies, Grades 8 & 9 Social Studies, Grade 9 Health, Family Living 621 and Family Life 421A, and resources on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.*
- **Sexual and Reproductive Health-Care Services in Prince Edward Island – for People with Female Parts** (March 2016). *A resource guide to sexual and reproductive health services in PEI, developed by the Advisory Council on the Status of Women with community partners and illustrated by Council member Mari Basiletti.*

Financial Statements

Management's Report

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

The financial statements have been prepared by management in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards and the integrity and objectivity of these statements are management's responsibility. Management is responsible for the notes to the financial statements and for ensuring that this information is consistent, where appropriate, with the information contained in the financial statements.

Management is responsible for implementing and maintaining a system of internal control to provide reasonable assurance that reliable financial information is produced.

The Advisory Council members are responsible for ensuring that management fulfills its responsibilities for financial reporting and internal control. The Council members review internal financial reports on a regular basis and externally audited financial statements annually.

The Auditor General conducts an independent examination, in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards and expresses her opinion on the financial statements. The Auditor General has full and free access to financial information and management of the Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women to meet as required.

On behalf of the Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women:

Greg Ledwell
Executive Director

December 15, 2016

Prince Edward Island | Île-du-Prince-Édouard

Office of the Auditor General

Bureau du vérificateur général

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of the:
Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women

I have audited the financial statements of the Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women, which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2016, and the statements of operations and accumulated deficit, changes in net financial assets (debt), and cash flow for the year then ended and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit. I conducted the audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that I comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Council as at March 31, 2016, and the results of its operations, changes in net financial assets (debt), and cash flow for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards.

B. Jane MacAdam, CPA, CA
Auditor General

Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island
December 15, 2016

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND
ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
Statement of Financial Position
March 31, 2016

	2016	2015
	$	$
Financial Assets		
Cash	5,490	57,681
Accounts receivable	1,246	2,251
	6,736	59,932
Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (Note 3)	13,671	19,483
Net Financial Assets (Debt)	(6,935)	40,449
Non Financial Assets		
Prepaid expenses	1,564	1,209
Accumulated Surplus (Deficit)	(5,371)	41,658

(The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.)

Approved on behalf of the Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women:

Council Chair

Council Member

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND
ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
Statement of Operations and Accumulated Deficit
for the year ended March 31, 2016

	Budget 2016	2016	2015
	$	$	$
Revenues			
Grants - Province of Prince Edward Island (Note 6)	198,000	153,035	250,260
Program revenue (Note 6)	7,000	5,474	4,955
	205,000	158,509	255,215
Expenses			
Administration	10,021	10,231	9,045
Contracts	4,800	4,000	4,450
Council meetings/business	21,450	21,422	25,744
Equipment	-	520	1,552
Materials and supplies	5,120	9,400	9,225
Salaries and benefits	164,797	159,965	156,682
	205,000	205,538	206,698
Annual Surplus (Deficit)	-	(47,029)	48,517
Accumulated Surplus (Deficit), beginning of year		41,658	(6,859)
Accumulated Surplus (Deficit), end of year		(5,371)	41,658

(The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.)

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND
ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
Statement of Changes in Net Financial Assets (Debt)
for the year ended March 31, 2016

	Budget 2016	2016	2015
	$	$	$
Net Financial Assets (Debt), beginning of year	40,449	40,449	(8,115)
Changes in year:			
Annual surplus (deficit)	-	(47,029)	48,617
Change in prepaid expenses	-	(353)	(53)
Change in Net Financial Assets (Debt)	-	(47,382)	48,564
Net Financial Assets (Debt), end of year	40,449	(6,933)	40,449

(The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.)

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND
ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
Statement of Cash Flow
for the year ended March 31, 2016

	2016	2015
	$	$
Cash provided (used) by:		
Operating Activities		
Annual surplus (deficit)	(47,029)	48,617
Changes in:		
Accounts receivable	1,002	(910)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(5,612)	2,000
Prepaid expenses	(353)	(53)
Cash (used) provided by operating activities	(52,191)	50,045
Cash, beginning of year	57,681	7,636
Cash, end of year	5,490	57,681

(The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.)

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND
ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
Notes to Financial Statements
March 31, 2016

1. **Purpose of the Organization**

The Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women is a government appointed provincial advisory agency. The Council works for equality and supports women's full and active participation in social, legal, cultural and political spheres of life. The Council is a non-taxable entity under the provisions of the federal *Income Tax Act*.

2. **Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

Basis of Accounting

These financial statements are prepared in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards.

Since the Council has no material unrealized remeasurement gains or losses attributed to foreign exchange, derivatives, portfolio investments, or other financial instruments, a statement of remeasurement gains and losses has not been prepared.

The following is a summary of the significant accounting policies used in the preparation of these financial statements:

a) **Cash**

Cash consists of balances on deposit at a financial institution.

b) **Accounts Receivable**

Accounts receivable are recorded at cost less any specific provision when collection is in doubt.

c) **Prepaid Expenses**

Prepaid expenses are charged to expense over the periods expected to benefit.

d) **Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities**

Accounts payable and accrued liabilities are recorded for all amounts due for work performed and goods or services received during the year.

e) **Tangible Capital Assets**

Tangible capital assets are recorded at cost provided the threshold of $3,000 is met and are amortized on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful life of five to fifteen years. Tangible capital asset purchases that do not meet the threshold are expensed. No capital assets have been recognized because purchases did not meet the threshold for capitalization. During the year, equipment totalling $520 (2015 - $1,552) was expensed.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND
ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
Notes to Financial Statements
March 31, 2016

2. **Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued...)**

f) **Revenues**

Revenues are recognized in the period in which the transaction or event that gave rise to the revenue occurred. All revenues are recorded on an accrual basis, except when the accruals cannot be determined with a reasonable degree of certainty or when their estimation is impracticable.

Transfers (revenues from non-exchange transactions) are recognized as revenues when the transfer is authorized, any eligibility criteria are met, and a reasonable estimate of the amount can be made.

g) **Expenses**

Expenses are recorded on an accrual basis in the period in which the transaction or event that gave rise to the expense occurred.

h) **Financial Instruments**

Financial instruments consist of cash, accounts receivable, accounts payable, and accrued liabilities. Due to their nature, financial instruments are carried at cost or amortized cost, less any provision on accounts receivable, which approximates their fair value.

i) **Use of Estimates and Measurement Uncertainty**

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian public sector accounting standards requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the period. Items requiring the use of significant estimates are accrued liabilities.

Estimates are based on the best information available at the time of preparation of the financial statements and are reviewed annually to reflect new information as it becomes available. Measurement uncertainty exists in these financial statements. Actual results could differ from these estimates and the difference could be material.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND
ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
Notes to Financial Statements
March 31, 2016

3. **Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities**

	2016 $	2015 $
Accounts payable	5,649	6,742
Accrued salaries and benefits	-	4,204
Accrued vacation and overtime	8,022	8,537
	13,671	19,483

4. **Employee Benefits**

a) **Sick Leave**

Employees of the Council are granted a base amount of 15 days of paid sick leave on April 1 of each fiscal year. Unused sick days may be accumulated to a maximum of 30 days. The use of accumulated sick days for sick leave compensation ceases on termination of employment and there is no obligation to settle these amounts with cash payments. A liability has not been calculated or recognized in these financial statements based on an analysis which indicated the liability was not significant.

b) **Pension Benefits**

Permanent employees of the Council participate in the Province of Prince Edward Island Civil Service Superannuation Pension Plan (the Plan) which is a multi-employer contributory defined benefit pension plan. The Plan provides a pension on retirement based on two percent of the average salary for the highest three years times the number of years of pensionable service for service to December 31, 2013, and two percent of the career average salary indexed with cost-of-living adjustments for service after 2013. Indexing is subject to the funded level of the plan after December 31, 2016. The Plan is administered by the Province of Prince Edward Island. The Council's annual portion of contributions to the Plan of $12,140 (2015 - $11,859) was paid by the Province and not reflected in these financial statements. Any unfunded liability of the Plan is the responsibility of the Province and therefore no liability has been recognized in these financial statements. For additional information on the Plan, see the Province's consolidated financial statements.

5. **Contractual Obligation**

A photocopier is leased until January 15, 2020, with annual lease payments of $2,000 plus applicable taxes.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND
ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
Notes to Financial Statements
March 31, 2016

6. **Related Party Transactions**

The Council received the following grants from the Province:

	2016 $	2015 $
Operating Grant	140,250	246,750
Other Grants	3,785	3,510
	153,035	250,260

The Council received a grant of nil (2015 - $2,014) from another Crown corporation of the Province of Prince Edward Island which is included with program revenue.

Certain costs incurred by the Province of Prince Edward Island on behalf of the Council are not reflected in these financial statements. These costs include rental of office space, related office expenses, and certain employee benefits.

7. **Financial Management**

The Council's risk exposure, as a result of the financial instruments on its statement of financial position at March 31, 2016, is limited to liquidity risk. The Council's financial instruments are not subject to significant market or credit risk.

Liquidity Risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Council will not be able to meet all its cash outflow obligations as they come due. This risk is mitigated by monitoring the level of financial assets in relation to amounts due and implementing fiscal restraint when necessary.

8. **Budgeted Figures**

Budgeted figures have been provided for comparative purposes and were derived from estimates approved by the Council.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND
Advisory Council on the Status of
WOMEN

For additional copies of this report:

PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women
PO Box 2000, Charlottetown, PE C1A 7N8
902-368-4510
info@peistatusofwomen.ca
http://www.gov.pe.ca/acsw